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Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1967
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THE WASHINGTON POST

ABM

Peking May Produce Satellite Before ICBM

By George C. Wilson

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Red China may pull a Sputnik in Asia by launching a satellite before testing an ICBM, a specialist on Chinese affairs told Congress yesterday.

Alice Langley Hsieh, senior staff member of the Rand Corp.'s social science department and formerly a Far East specialist at the State Department, said such a technical feat would give China "great power status."

The other advantage of going in the satellite route first, she said, would be to show the world "the peaceful, not military, uses of China's missile development."

There is no technical reason that would prevent China from launching a satellite once she has a big enough booster.

Mrs. Hsieh was among three specialists who testified before the Military Applications Sub-

committee of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee yesterday on missile defenses and other weaponry.

Besides the satellite possibility, the witnesses said China may elect to build a force of medium-range missiles to threaten her neighbors rather than ICBMs targeted on the United States.

Philip E. Mosely, director of Columbia University's European Institute, told the subcommittee that recent changes in China's leadership suggest that "the turmoil of the Red Guards" has given the military a stronger role in running the nation.

The present split between China and Russia, he said, most likely will be closed after the death of Mao Tse-tung, whom he portrayed as "in his dotage."

Dr. Thomas W. Wolfe of George Washington University's Sino-Soviet Institute told the subcommittee that the

United States and Russia have gone too far down the road of an anti-ballistic-missile defense to turn back now.

"While the military merits of ABM systems may or may not come to fully justify their deployment, these systems have probably become already too potent a symbolic element in the strategic equation to be readily discarded," he said.

ABM systems "may well restore the premium on a first strike and destabilize the deterrent balance," Wolfe said.

Administration leaders in recent days have expressed hope that Russia may still be interested in talks on freezing the levels of both offensive and defensive missiles.

The disclosure Friday that the Soviet Union appears to be testing an orbital rocket has brought a charge from Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) that the weapon is a "good faith" breach of the treaty banning terror weapons in outer space.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has said flatly that the orbital rocket has not violated that treaty since it has not traveled a full orbit around the earth. He conceded it could.

Asked whether the Soviet Fractional Orbital Bombardment System (FOBS) violates the space treaty, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said yesterday, when stopped by newsmen outside the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room. "From what I know of it (FOBS), I would not think so at this point."